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William Baldwin

SPORTSMAN'S COMPANION

OR AN 1807

ESSAY ON SHOOTING:

Illustriously shewing in what manner to fire at  
Birds of Game, in various directions and  
situations.—AND,

*Directions to gentlemen for the treatment  
and breaking their own Pointers and  
Spaniels, and the necessary precau-  
tions, to guard against many  
accidents that attend this  
pleasant diversion :*

WITH

SEVERAL OTHER USEFUL AND INTEREST-  
ING PARTICULARS RELATIVE THERETO.

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BY A GENTLEMAN,

Who has made shooting his favorite amuse-  
ment upwards of twenty-six years, in Great-  
Britain, Ireland, and North-America.

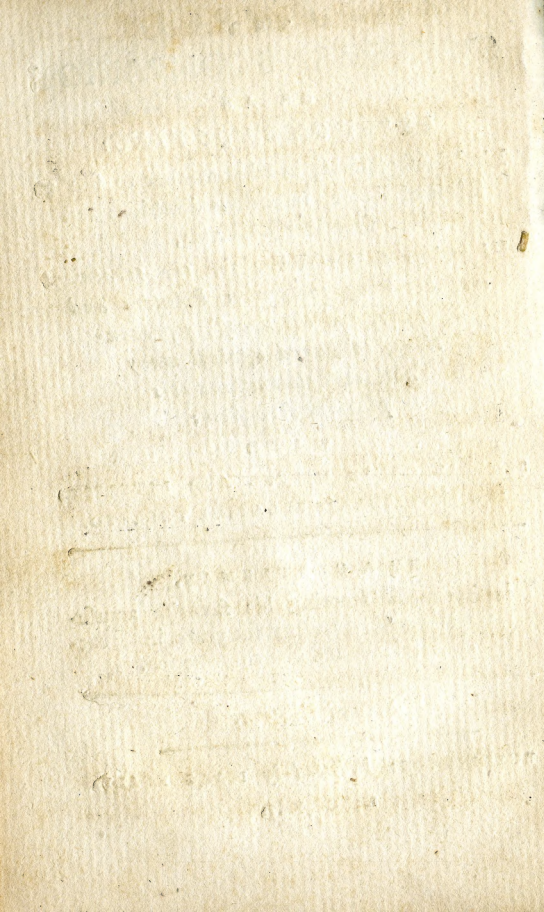
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*Second Edition.*

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# To the PUBLIC.

*To my brother Sportsmen in particular, to the Public in general, and to such young Gentlemen as are desirous of becoming adepts in the diversion of the field, I beg leave to address myself.*

GENTLEMEN,

**W**HEN I undertook this small Essay, at the request of some of my friends, I must own that I was discouraged by a diffidence of my own abilities as a writer upon any subject; but emboldened by the utmost confidence and hopes in my readers' lenity and indulgence on this score, I am, on these considerations, come to the resolution to present it to the World, such as it is, with all its incorrectness and imperfections.

As nothing worth the reading on this subject has appeared in public to my know-

## TO THE PUBLIC.

ledge, if any thing new and useful should offer itself in this work, it will give the utmost pleasure, most heartfelt satisfaction, and most ample reward to

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient, and

Most devoted humble Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

# P R E F A C E.

*THE Author of these sheets much regrets that his situation, at the time of writing them, did not admit of his procuring engravings and plates, that would be useful and ornamental, make the work complete, and render some passages clear and demonstrative, as well as to illustrate the dimensions, length, and size of the Fuzee, Shot-Bag, Powder-Horn, &c. as to fully comprehend the nature and different attitudes of the Sportsman firing at Birds, in different flights and directions, as of the various positions of the Pointer, the shape and form of the Collar, Chain, Couples, Spring-Collar, and Cord, Puzzle, Dog-Call Portable Pocket-Whip, Pocket-Bottle and Bird-Net, &c. &c*

*The greatest pains, however, have been taken to explain the most minute circumstances of materiality, as well to improve,*

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*as to guard against Accidents attending this amusement.*

*The few incidents and digressions quoted here, are not mentioned for their novelty or from any vanity or fondness in the Author, to relate them, but are stated as absolute facts, to support the ideas that struck the writer, as well as to guard against the like happening to others.*

*The part which relates to the choice and treatment of Dogs, may appear trifling and frivolous to some; but the Author begs leave to inform his readers, that that subject is not handled with half the minuteness that was originally intended, and its swelling the book much above the size proposed, is the reason for not entering more particularly on that head. It is, notwithstanding, humbly presumed, that the few hints given, with my reader's own pains*



and reflection, will be deemed sufficient.

*The Author has prepared his mind on the score of the censure and ridicule these sheets may meet with, as such gentlemen as are already better informed, will be too generous to publicly disapprove of what is here offered; the less informed, I hope will meet with many things worth their attention.*

*As to the diction and grammatical part of the book, it is hoped, that, to be clearly understood, is sufficient without the advantage of the exact rules of grammar; that it is to the generous and noble minded Sportsman that this is dedicated, and not to the ungenerous.*

*If my readers will think it any degree of merit that I have invariably adhered to the principles that my own observations, long experience, and the approbation of*

## viii P R E F A C E.

*most excellent Sportsmen, have assisted me with in the following essay : I claim it as my own production, entirely new, and totally independent of any borrowed opinion, or maxims of any other writer ; never having seen or read a book upon the subject.*

THE  
Sportsman's Companion,  
OR AN  
ESSAY ON SHOOTING.

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CHAP. I.

*Of the choice of Pointer Pups  
training and keeping them in  
good Health.*

**I**N bespeaking a Pup you should calculate his age, so as to have him from nine to twelve months old, against the season for poults or young game, as, at that age, birds lie close, and the weather is fine and fitter to exercise your Dog.

IN the choice of this kind of Pups the greatest care is necessary in a thorough knowledge of their pedigree and species. Spurious pups seldom turn out to any advantage.—There are many kinds of Pointers, such as the heavy Spanish Dog, the Russian rough Dog, the German, the genuine English Pointer, and the fleet Dogs of that country, with the small delicate kind, and many others. I would choose the fleet species, with a dash of the Russian, on account of its fur, rather large and powerful, and from a young dam and sire. Some attention is necessary in the colour; and white and red, or yellow, are generally the best; tho' I have seen them good of various colours, and I am credibly informed, that there is an excellent breed of black ones in England. I would prefer white, with liver coloured ears, and flea-bitten spots; or white and red, with spots of the same; some



are entirely white, whatever the spots are, white should prevail most, being easier seen, and less fatiguing to the sight, as one is obliged to have a constant eye to them in ranging. Bitches are commonly the best and fleetest; but they are inconvenient and very troublesome, and often rendered useless, and disappoint you, by either being in heat, or with Pup, &c.

SOME disapprove of the first litter of the Pups, this I leave to the physicians.

ADMITTING you have got a Pup to your liking, and that you have him under your care, his tail should be cut when very young, rather long; nothing disfigures a Dog more than a short stumpy tail, especially if he is large.—And I must here, with reluctance, enter upon a subject that I detest, although its utility obliges me to mention it, viz. cropping, or cutting the ears pretty

short. I have, by long experience, observed, that the generality of Pointers, in North-America in particular, have their ears tore with briars and other prickly shrubs; this keeps them in continual torment, and by a perpetual shaking of the ears, cause bleeding, and dirty every body about them. I have known them puffed up and bleed so much as to prevent their hunting for some time. I own, that the only remedy for this, which is cropping them when very young, is attended with a degree of barbarity, and disfigures the animals very much; but the necessity of it, where Pointers are used in bad cover, leaves no alternative. I have seen one who had the ears cut; he looked very odd, indeed, and ugly, but never was troubled with sore ears.—I had a Dog that was so much troubled with this complaint, that I was obliged to cut them about the middle: I first tried several things to cure

them, but they always bled, and were cancerous.

You should choose some short strong word to name your Dog, as it will be easier pronounced and better heard in calling him to you in the field; such as Don, Dash, Flush, Fido, Ponto, Sancho, Carlo, &c. You should prevent his going in the street (if living in town) as they are perfect loobies and subject to many accidents; nor should they be permitted to lie close to the fire, this chills them. Their food should be wholesome, and, in the shooting season, ought to be chiefly meal of some sort. They are subject to what is called the distemper in Dogs (not madness); it is either caused by worms or colds; they run at the nose and eyes, with a coughing and choaking, and refuse their food, and sometimes linger out in this manner, daily wasting in flesh, about

six months, though they most frequently die, if not relieved by medicine, in a few days. Many remedies are used for this sickness in Dogs, and, as I am no Physician, I shall only mention one, which I have applied often with success: On the first appearance of this distemper, give your Dog, in proportion to his age and strength, Crocus-metolorum: This will, perhaps, make him perspire, emit, and purge; keep him warm for a few days, and repeat the medicine if necessary. I have lost, in five years time, six young Dogs, before I made use of the Crocus, from the age of two months to eleven, notwithstanding the applications of many remedies; but I have cured several with this medicine effectually since. After they are done growing they are seldom seized with the distemper.—Let their bed be clean straw or something warm.

ABOUT the age of six or seven months,



you may take out your Pup, some times to air him, but by no means fatigue him—taking care not to permit him to run after fowls, sheep, cows, horses, &c.—The first thing to be taught him, is obedience, by making him come to you, and follow you whenever you please, to make him follow well is a great point gained, as they are very giddy at first; next make him *close down*, and let him remain so as long as you please—this you may do in the house, by laying a piece of meat down before him, and not allow him to touch it until you think proper, then hide the meat and make him hunt for it —If you have a mind he should fetch and carry, never suffer him to touch a stone, large bones, or a stick, or any other hard substance, this will make him hard mouthed—make a ball of some spongy substance, and if he is hard in the mouth, fill it with pins, with their points

sticking outwards, in imitation of a hedgehog's bristles, this will soften his mouth.

IN Great-Britain and Ireland it is not common for Pointers to fetch your dead or wounded game, but in America or in other woody countries, this is an indispensable qualification in them, on account of the immense cover and brush, which causes the loss of many birds that are even shot dead, particularly Quail, when the Dogs have not been taught to fetch and carry.

WHEN your Dog follows well, is obedient, and fetches his ball well, at the proper season for poults, but never before he is *nine* months or a year old, for some Dogs are much forwarder than others, take him out alone, or with a very staunch Dog, to some ground where you expect to meet with game and if he is of a good tractable kind, he will not fail to scent and hunt them ; don't check

his beating fleet, and going far out from you at first, but chastise him gently for pursuing and chasing the game, don't be in a hurry to make him *point*, he will very likely do that of his own accord, or back the old Dog when you call out, close—or down, Sir—you should have a small ivory dog or cat-call to bring in your Dog, which is much easier than calling him in with the voice.

I HAVE made a Dog perfectly staunch in one day, in this manner? in all this do not take your gun out, nothing but a small whip is necessary, until you have made him quite staunch—you should then make him quarter and beat the ground to your mind, by signs from your hand. If your Dog is hard to stop, fiery, and springs his game, you must provide a broad leather collar with small nails drove through it, pointing inwards to his neck; the collar must be pretty wide, and fixed so as to prick him a little on your

pulling a long cord fastened to it, for the purpose of checking him when he offers to run in, which must trail after him as he beats the ground; if this does not do with a few trials, have patience, and time with the assistance of this machine which is very simple, will make him point—Some very good Dogs are long ere they become staunch, if they are crossed in the breed by vigorous and high, bred ones.

WHEN your Dog *stands* well, take out your gun, and it will be a great step toward, making him, to shoot a bird to him the first time you fire; what is to be done then will be mentioned hereafter.

IN Scotland, where game keepers and fowlers find out the Moor-fowl and Partridge sitting on the ground when the Dog points, and shoots them for the sake of killing plenty of game,—they teach their Dogs to stand still on their point or sett, on their missing fire or burn-

ing priming, this is absolutely necessary in the above practice, for if the Dog was permitted to move forward at either of the aforesaid accidents, his very action would spring the game,—you may therefore teach him this with a pistol and a little powder, before you begin to take out your gun, you may also fire your pistol at game on their rising, to habituate your Dog not to *chace* when you fire. I am so very averse to netting birds with letters, that I shall avoid saying any thing here about it, it is rather too much known and practised—though when done with discretion in proper places, it is entertaining, and requires excellent Dogs.

To prevent your young Dog's acquiring bad tricks, you should never lend him until he is thoroughly broke, or let another person hunt him, or go out shooting with bad pointers, and never with Spaniels.—Some pointers that do very well alone, have an



anxiety and eagerness from being jealous and wanting the lead of other Dogs, make them spring your game; it is therefore necessary to accustom them to hunt in company with others of equal staunchness, back and point together: When Dogs know their game, they don't always range in the same direction, and it often happens, that one is standing on a point, when the other knows nothing about the matter; you should therefore, adopt some word by which all the Dogs may know that one is fixed at his point; I have made use of calling to him that stands, pretty loud by name, such as *close*, *Ponto*; the others will immediately hearken, repair to the point, and back if used to this. If, after your Dog is pretty well made, you observe him to snub and stop at small birds and vermin, and carry his head low in the manner of Spaniels; if he will hear it, use the puzzle until he is perfectly cured of this fault.

YOUR Dog should not be fed on the morning you hunt him, unless it be a little bread or something light; but he ought to have a plentiful supper though nothing salt; refresh him about mid day, when you rest, with bread and milk, or meal and milk.

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## C H A P. II.

### *Choice of your Gun, Powder, and Shot.*

HERE it may be expected I should enlarge upon the different kinds and quality of fowling pieces in general; but I beg leave to avoid that subject, and proceed to give my opinion of its size only: Your Gun then, should never be too light; gentlemen in general choose light pieces, for the conveni-

ence of carrying them, but they ought to be rather heavy and not too short, with a strong wide barrel, and large deep groove at the breech; this facilitates the quickness of your aim. I would prefer two Guns of equal size and caliber, to the double barrel, the one carried by a servant accustomed to this kind of exercise, who could be entrusted to load it, and who ought therefore to carry powder and shot.

Your powder should be of the best and driest kind : For Grouse and Partridge, take shot, No. 3, 4, and 5 ; for Quail, Woodcock, and Snipe, use No. 7 and 8 ; the shot ought to be varied according to the season ; when birds are young, the smaller your shot the better ; but in the months of November and December, a large kind is necessary, the game being then in full plumage, are become stronger, and as the cold increases, you seldom get so nigh as you do

in fine weather, some warm sun-shine days excepted.

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### C H A P. III.

#### *Taking Aim in various Directions, and first of the Grouse.*

**I**F you have a point to a pack of Grouse (which you may generally distinguish from a single bird by the action of your Pointer; if an experienced one, he will shew greater caution and point squatter to a pack, covey, or bevy, than to a single bird) and that a bird or two rises too far off, and not to your liking, don't fire, others will, most likely, follow.—If the bird you single out should fly straight from you, horizontally, if he is too nigh, be sure not to hurry, give him

time to gain a proper distance, that your shot may spread and have its proper effect; cover your bird, and, keeping the piece firm against your shoulder, pull the trigger the first glance you have of him: From 35 to 50 paces, which habit will pretty nigh ascertain, is a good distance, 'though you may kill at 60 paces distance and more.

If your bird flies to your right, aim a little before his head, always taking your time with the utmost deliberation and composure, should he be too nigh in this direction, wait until his flight and the trace of your shot, will bring him to the point of a salient angle.

If he goes to your left, shoot also before him a little, and observe the same direction, this is called cross shooting, and requires the steadiest aim. Arched shots (i. e. when the bird rises high before he recovers his full flight) are deemed the easiest and surest,



therefore if a bird rises or towers, you may take your own time; always observing to cock your piece after the bird rises; many act contrarily, but, besides the danger of this you will always, when you have habituated yourself to it, have sufficient time—therefore never walk with your piece cocked or with your muzzle carried low, or in a careless position, or pointing to any person in company; after you do cock, keep your thumb upon it till you take aim.

GROUSE, or Heath-cock, may be justly deemed the sublimity of shooting, and it is much to be regretted that any should have access to this diversion, but such as are at least competent judges of so very Majestical an amusement.——You should therefore be provided with a brace of the best Pointers, of the fleet species, large and vigorous.

IN Scotland and England for the moors,  
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this kind of shooting is not so laborious for Dogs as it is in North America; the brushy plains on Long-Island, is the only place I have seen in that country abounding with Grouse, and it is pretty well known to many good sportsmen residing in New-York and Long-Island. As the cover on said plains is an under oak wood, of a strong and thick brushy nature, it certainly requires the very best of Dogs, and it should be so contrived in your parties, to have always a fresh brace to hunt, for as your Dogs on that ground are obliged to gallop at a very high rate, and rise powerfully to the cover, they are soon fatigued; they ought to have a very large range, the cover being even and the ground extensive to a long view, admits of their going well out, and as they are supposed to be perfectly staunch, you run no risk of springing. Of many Pointers that I have seen carried to this ground, who were

deemed good ones in small shooting, few were, at least for the first two or three days, good for much. You should then, previous to the season for this game, keep your Dogs in good wind, by frequent exercise, and reducing their fat, by feeding them on meal and light diet; by this attention they will be rendered, in some measure, prepared for the great exercise that must ensue, and for which they would be very ill calculated, were they taken immediately from feeding on the run of the kitchen and street carrion.—I have seen tolerable good Dogs brought there, that never made out a bird in three or four days labour.

As for directions for finding this game, the plains are so very large and extensive that nothing but patience, perseverance, and labor, with the addition of guides that know their haunts, can ensure success.—I should here avoid attempting to describe the sev-

ral articles of conveniency, such as horses, chairs, provision, liquors, &c. necessary for this diversion ; it will be presumptive in me (who am but a stranger) to delineate them, they being much better known than I can explain them ; yet if I was permitted to choose, I would make the following arrangement :—Suppose my party to consist of two gentlemen, I would provide a single horse-chair, the horse should be accustomed to the firing of arms, a servant in a second chair, to carry the Dogs, of which there should be two brace at least, provision, liquors, tea, sugar, &c. and spare powder and shot, &c. &c. so that between the expences, of the Gentlemen, Servant, Horses, Dogs, &c, I may allow three guineas per diem for the whole, to be a very moderate calculation, of the expences of this kind of amusement, exclusive of powder and shot.

INDIAN-MEAL, porridge, and milk is the

common food you can get for the Dogs in that part of the country; it is light and wholesome: this and the exercise, soon reduces them to a proper condition for action—Several Gentlemen in and near New-York, have excellent Dogs, but I cannot avoid giving the preference, above any that ever I saw, to one, which I believe, was General Birche's; he had been some years in the possession of a man on the Plains who served as a guide to Gentlemen when grouse-ing—he had reduced the Dog so low, that when I saw him first, he was a mere skeleton, I thought he could not stand upon his legs, but he soon convinced me to the contrary, by ranging with admirable agility, and perfect staunchness; this I entirely imputed to his uncommon practice:—The Dog was so habituated to game (or rather over hunted) and kept so low, that he scarcely made any show at all when he came upon



birds, and drew with seeming indifference; and if he happened far out from you at a point, he sat upon his backside until you came up to him—being, as I thought, too weak to stand in the attitude of pointing for any considerable time: He was red and white, of a middle size, I think the fleet species, though he was so low in flesh, that I could form no just idea of his shape and make.

A pack of these birds will cover a considerable extent of ground, in evenings and mornings, when dispersed and scattered about after food, that it very often happens, after you have had several shots, may be from more than one point to the same pack, that some birds still remain on the ground, especially if they have not been much disturbed; you should therefore allow your Dogs to make full ranges all round and back-hunt what you take to be the utmost limits of

the ground the pack occupied;—here the excellency of your Dogs are absolutely necessary, not only in picking up the remaining game, but also in being perfectly obedient and still after you fire, and not moving an inch whilst you are loading; they ought, indeed, to be very cool in general, particularly upon such occasions as the above; without this qualification in your pointers, you will have the mortification of seeing the Grouse rise and fly in fair shots all round, when perhaps, you have not a gun ready to fire, which will not in general be the case if the Dogs lay still, for in fine weather, the birds will not, sometimes, be easily got up: I must here beg leave to quote an instance in support of the preceeding ideas, viz.

I was the first that took Mr. L. ———'s Bull-head (so called, having a short head like one of those animals, being of the Spanish kind) to the Plains, I think in the year

1778: He was made in England, was staunch, and of the best breed, was under good command, and seemed rather timid; it was in the latter end of September; the Dog stood, but when I fired, Bull-head ran out and gave tongue at a great rate; I imputed this to his long sea passage and want of practice; called him in, and only spoke harsh to him.—The second shot, he however behaved much worse than the first, and would not come in, but run after a whole pack of Grouse in single birds, yelped and barked without intermission. He continued this career for a whole day, and all my address could not bring him in, and consequently spoilt the day's diversion.

THE second day I gave him to our guide, with a rope fastened from his collar to a bell tied about the man's waist. Upon my firing (being very strong) he brought the fellow down upon his face, and trailed him

through the brush a great way, which exasperated our guide so much, as to cut the rope and let him go. I saw no more of Sancho, only at a distance, for the rest of the day, and tho' we had another Dog, now lost the second day's sport, not being able to catch him.

HAD he been my own I certainly would have shot him. Notwithstanding, Bull-head next season became one of the best Dogs I ever saw: He was by no means fleet, but held out well, and, I believe, all art would not induce him to move an inch from his point. It will seem (to those acquainted with this work) incredible, to declare that, in 1781, I hunted him five days successively on the Plains, and on the sixth day, he travelled to Brooklyne-Ferry, above forty miles. On this occasion he found more birds than General Birch's Dog, owing to his superior strength. L —, and myself

lost him once in a brushy cover, Quail shooting, at Bushwick; we called, shouted, and whistled for him very nigh half an hour, and no appearance of Sancho; at last I heard a faint howl, and, turning about, within three yards of my heels, there was poor Bull-head fixed at a dead point to a bevy. —He became mine afterwards, but falling down from a garret, three stories high, he died of the bruise in a few days. To a Sportsman of fortune, he was worth forty pounds sterling.



## C H A P. IV.

*Of Partridge, Quail, marking  
in your Game, with some in-  
teresting Digressions, and o-  
ther Matters.*

**T**HESE birds are apt to rise in a flock, though sometimes one part of them takes wing considerably before the others; of this you must judge from your knowledge of the ground, and perhaps, of the covey. Suppose them to get up pretty numerous, and that you want to kill many birds, as is the general wish; in that case you should, previous to their rising, post yourself at a proper distance from where you suppose them to lie by the Dog's attitude; allowing your Servant or one of the company to spring them, and fire among them (always taking

aim at a particular bird) just as they clear the cover or ground, for they immediately disperse after rising. If you choose a single bird, observe the former directions respecting the Grouse; though the Partridge being a lesser object, and of quicker flight, require a quicker and surer sight; this refers to Partridges in Europe, particularly in Great-Britain and Ireland.

To ascertain the distance of the birds from your Dog, a Pointer, at a moderate distance, will draw and stretch himself out to a beautiful attitude; but if he is taken short, and comes nearer than he would, before he catches the scent, he droops and hunches his back almost double, or, perhaps, point, looking over his shoulder side-ways (I have known cautious Dogs stand with the bird behind, being so close, as, for fear of springing, to prevent his turning about); this, you'll say, may be at a detached bird

of the covey ; I grant it may ; but when the others take wing, you will be nigh enough, in the common occurrences, in such a case, as the body of the covey is seldom at any considerable distance from the straggling birds.—I have often seen good chances lost by firing at the first birds that got up, especially where there was no second gun ready loaded,

WE will now suppose you have done execution, and killed your game, don't stir an inch from where your fired, until you are loaded, nor shall your Dog be suffered to move forward, until you order him, making him come and lay down close to your heels till you have loaded. My reason for this precaution will appear obvious to every Sportsman; but I shall lay it down here for the information of the less experienced.

I HAVE once myself met with the follow-

D

ing disappointment, and have seen the like happen to others very frequently :—My dog *Cæsar* made a staunch point at Quails, at a pretty moderate distance, in an open field, without any other cover than a little thin grass: Five birds got up and flew in different directions: I singled out one, fired, and down he fell, to all appearance dead, upon the ground, at about the distance of 50 yards; contrary to my usual manner, not thinking he could by any means get off, I encouraged *Cæsar* to quit his station, and go and fetch him, and moved forward myself without loading; just as the dog was going to mouth him, up springs the Quail from between his feet, and towering to a considerable height in the air, fell at a great distance stone dead, as I judged, in a very thick cover, and after hunting for him about an hour with the utmost assiduity, lost him: Had I been loaded I could have easily fired at him a second time, and could not

well-miss him.—Another reason why you should load before you go to pick up your bird, is, that there may be more game still nigh you, that may rise upon your moving forward, and give you another chance.

I HOPE the above example, of which there are many instances, and the reason assigned, will be sufficient to reconcile Gentlemen to the utility of loading ere they move from whence they fired; and though this may, in some instances, be attended with the loss of a few birds, that are winged and run away into some hole or bad cover, yet this method will be, in general, as nineteen to one in your favor; besides it staunches your pointer, gives him breath, and effectually prevents his chacing.

IT frequently happens that you mortally wound your bird, though he flies and apparently does not seem to be in the least hurt, any further than his giving a sudden

bounce, and it is often not without cause.

I was once on the Brushy-Plains, Long-Island, in company with two Gentlemen, we fell in with a pack of Grouse, or Heath-hens, and had some shots; as we turned our backs, and were quitting the ground, I heard a bird rising behind me; I turned quickly about, and, notwithstanding it flew at a great distance, I covered him and fired; he immediately towered high in the air, and, after crossing a large wood at a considerable distance, disappeared. I insisted upon my hitting him, from his towering so very high: The other Gentlemen laughed, and said it was impossible from the distance I was at when I fired, that the bird was only frightened. I begged, however, that they would stay for me, and that I would go back after him, and convince myself, if possible.—I took a boy that saw the bird's flight, and one of the dogs, and after going



nigh half a mile, and through a large piece of wood, the dog found my bird under our feet, lying stone dead upon his back. I came back with him in great triumph, shewing him to the company, but on examining could not find any marks of shot; this renewed the laugh against me; but the bird being quite warm, I was fully convinced it was the same I fired at:—We brought it to our rendezvous, and plucked him with the utmost care, but could find no impression of shot; at last, after many searches, I discovered that a single grain of shot had carried the end of a pen-feather through the spine, and the other end in the mouth of the wound, which prevented our seeing it before. There must, undoubtedly, be many escapes of this nature, in the case of body wounds; For Grouse, Partridge and Quail, will carry a great quantity of shot, and fly strong

and far, when you don't touch their wings, even if you break their legs.

I, AT another time, in company with Mr. M——, of the 69th Regiment, fired at a single cock Quail in a grass meadow, at a moderate distance, and a very deliberate shot; the bird bounded strong and struck against the ground, but, without any delay, rebounded and towered to a great height, and flew strong and swift over a very broad and thick cover: I gave him up, but saw he was hit. About an hour afterwards, as the Dogs were ranging on the other side the thicket, Ponto made a sudden point, very close and squat; I called Mr. M——, and said I would lay any bett that was the bird I had fired at: We endeavoured to rise our game, but nothing stirred. All the dogs by this time backed and confirmed the point. We then went up, and there the poor Quail sat within two feet of the dog's

nose, alive, but could not rise or move; I took it up, and, upon examining him, one of his thighs was broke, and his guts hanging out, his belly being tore in a very large gash.—I mention these circumstances not as uncommon, and in the marvellous; many others of the same kind might be quoted: But to caution the young Sportsman to attend particularly to the flight of his bird, after firing and apparently missing, especially if they are seen to tower, bound, or give a sudden start or shake; these are sure signs of being hit.

SHOULD you fire and not kill, or in a Sportsman term miss your shot, have an eye to the flight of the game and mark them *in* as close as possible, but do not run immediately to find them, still having attention to where they alighted by taking some mark, such as a tree, bush, shrub or rock:—There may be more birds between you and

them, you should therefore with coolness beat the intermediate ground towards them; this will give your game time to settle, besides it may cause them to take foot to some other place, which will facilitate your dog's roading and drawing up to them with greater certainty. Marked birds is hard for a dog to make out, as he will have no other scent than suddenly winding them in beating his ground, and as their time on their new ground has been but short, and perhaps did not move an inch from where they first alighted—consequently their scent will be weaker than where they perhaps basked, and roaded, and strayed about for a considerable time; you should therefore in general beat against the wind, particularly in going towards marked game. If your pack, convey or bevy is spread on the marked ground they will squat and lie close, this is the essence of shooting, you should therefore beat and re-beat the ground and make the

dog beat also very close ;—some old dogs are excellent at picking up birds in such a situation. I have seen from twelve to fourteen different points to one bevy of Quails on New-York Island after marking them ; and I have on the same ground in the year 1778 seen ten shots fired from one point, i. e. the dog stood at his point in a brushy cover, and it being a fine calm day in Autumn, all the birds rose almost singly ;—two of the Gentlemen that were of the party are Captains in the Navy ;—the dog was Mr. Templeton's Nero : You should, therefore, when you perceive Quails to rise singly, or in two's or three's, beat your ground very close.—In all the foregoing cases, I must insist upon your keeping your Dog in whilst you are loading, admitting him ever so staunch, his very action in beat-about, will rise the game.

EXCEPTING where the abundance of

birds renders Dogs uselefs, all depends upon the goodness of your Pointer.

I HAVE known the best shots fire a whole day with indifferent Dogs to little purpose, and I have known the same Gentlemen out at other times with good Dogs, where the birds were not so plenty, kill every shot, and bring home several brace. This may be easily accounted for : Calm weather is best for this diversion, birds fly unpleasant on windy days,



## C H A P. V.

*Of Shooting Parties, and other  
Matters relative thereto.*

I would recommend the avoiding a large company on shooting parties; two Gentlemen is sufficient to beat the ground together, there may be more of the same party at a distance, and meet occasionally.—Three is commonly attended with some degree of hurry and heat, and above that number with guns, is very unfociable, and nothing but confusion can ensue; besides as every Gentleman is not accustomed to this amusement, large companies may be attended with many inconveniencies and accidents.

SUPPOSE our shooting party to consist of two Gentlemen, their Servants and Dogs, &c. I would recommend the following man-

ner of shooting to them, viz. That they do not fire together, except when agreed at a covey or bevy, but that from all points of the Dog, they shoot in turn; that supposing the two Gentlemen walking abreast and the Dogs standing of course, if the birds take short to the right hand, or in other language, turn upon him, he on that side has a right to the shot, for if the Gentleman on the left was to fire, it would be perhaps, across his companion. The same to be inviolably observed, should the birds take the left, or turn in upon the Gentleman on that side. If the Gentleman whose turn it is to shoot first, misses his bird, it is but reasonable the other should endeavor to remedy this, by trying his shot, particularly in streight directions, giving sufficient time to distinguish the effects of the two discharges.—Shooting both together at the same moment at a bird, is little diversion; it leaves a doubt whose shot did execution,

spoil the game if too nigh, and is generally with the coolest attended with some emotion; it is much better to give the bird fair play, as Gentlemen, and have ocular demonstration who is the best shot. Yet all accidental chances should be embraced instantly, without ceremony, such as birds springing unexpectedly before you, rising sideways, or, as it often happens, behind, for there is such a thing as leaving birds behind, though you and the Dogs have almost trodden upon them; I think this is called overshooting the game. Woodcocks frequently come strait towards you, I would recommend your letting them pass, and take them at a proper distance after you turn about upon your heel; this is commonly an arched shot, the bird being high. Other game turn short upon you sometimes, especially if you hunt with Spaniels, but I have observed it more peculiar in Woodcocks.

WHEN you see your Dog stand fixed up, on his Point, don't call out loud and elated to your company to observe him, nor should you run up to him, this, besides heating you and affecting your nerves, is apt to cause an anxiety in your dog, and if not old and staunch, may make him move on and spring your game. Never in any situation make your Pointer spring your birds for you, on the contrary, go round him, and if the sun shines, endeavour to have it to your back, this, when the sun is low, in mornings or evenings, prevents its rays from obstructing your sight along the barrel, which should never be bright, but ought to be darkened with some kind of stain.

## C H A P. VI.

*Of improsperous Days for Shooting, with Instances quoted from undoubted Veracity; the Causes explained, and Remedy proposed.*

I HAVE frequently remarked that some days are improsperous to the Sportsman, although he sees many birds, and fires several shots, and fair ones too: I have known a dark horizon, high wind and other causes blamed for this, but I have frequently known the same to happen in very clear, calm, serene days; I will not here enter into the several causes, but beg leave to mention what I think should be done: When you are unlucky and don't shoot well, I

would rest and refresh myself and Dogs, and repeat this pretty often, until I was quite composed, for nothing causes a greater anxiety than disappointments of this kind, when you are confident in your own adroitness, the goodness of your gun, powder and shot, &c. It is probably owing to this heat and anxiousness that you fire so badly. I hope my generous reader will pardon me in mentioning a circumstance of this kind, when I declare it to be a fact, upon the strictest honor and veracity. My father was one of the best shots that I ever saw, with ball or small shot, and no man would contend the point with him in the part of the world he lived in; he was a very even tempered man, indefatigable and patient; I followed him one day, as I often did when a boy, to a Moor that abounded with Moor-fowl or Grouse; it was in September, the day was clear, but rather windy; we had a staunch old Dog and a young one, who was rather



rude at the first birds we met, and did not please my father, he accordingly corrected him, as I imagined, with the utmost composure and judgment, (though upon the sequel I believe he heated himself with the Dog) this I believe had a very good effect upon Pedro, he backed the old Dog the whole day afterwards. But to our subject, he fired many shots, perhaps from six to ten, very fair ones, and missed them every one; he expressed some wonder and changed his powder and shot, yet he missed four or five shots more; in all this, he did not, to our knowledge, touch a feather; we at last about twelve o'clock, sat down and refreshed ourselves, about an hour we began again, and the first point he shot his bird; I saw plainly, young as I was, that the charm was expelled, for I never saw him miss six times in all his shooting before that day;—to end my digression, I was loaded with twelve

brace of Grouse by sun-set, and in all the afternoon's shooting, he did not miss once in firing twenty-four times.

ANOTHER short story, and then I will end this part :—Bingham, an Irishman, formerly a soldier in the 16th, and lately in the 52d Regiment, and was killed a serjeant at Bunker's Hill, was the most indefatigable Sportsman and one of the best shots in the world. I have often been out with him at Chateau-Richie, and the Island of Orleans, nigh Quebec. I have frequently seen him shoot twelve brace of Snipe (before a fiery Spaniel) without missing one : I saw him one day kill eighteen brace, missing but twice out of thirty-eight shots. He would hit the Target firing at a mark, with any indifferent piece belonging to the company. His diet, when out shooting, was bread and milk ; and he would tire an Indian to follow him, though I have known him at other

times guilty of intemperance in drinking.

I was present with said Bingham one day and saw him fire thirty shots at Snipe, and shot but two brace ; he owned that he was never in better order, as to his habit of body ; the birds flew fair, and we had a calm serene day. He often threw his piece down and swore he would break it: it was a good one, though a very long French barrel ; and what added to his choler, was my killing almost every shot.—As there must be something more than mischance, or bad luck in disappointments of this nature, I hope the above instances, with many more of a similar kind that almost daily occur, are pretty evident demonstrations, that some heat, or too much anxiety, in endeavouring to remedy our shooting so bad, is most commonly the cause of (good shots) want of success.—Therefore, as I have already observed, the best remedy is to rest a little and take

breath; talk over the matter and recollect ourselves.

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## C H A P. VII.

### *Of Woodcocks.*

**A**S these birds most commonly keep in strong cover, such as swamps, brushy and close scrubby woods (excepting where they are to be found in wet meadows, springs and open ground) I would recommend the Cocking Spaniel; indeed I have known good Pointers, I suppose by reason of not being used to them, that would not take much notice, or point to them: As they don't travel much on foot, they are a hopping puzzling game for Pointers. Good

Spaniels and boys to beat the cover with sticks, are the best to spring them: they are an easy shot, and generally arched, if you give them time to disentangle and clear themselves from the cover, and suffer them to take fair flight; this, however, much depends upon your own situation.

IN this kind of shooting you should be very careful how you fire, (I have shot and was shot myself at this work) by keeping a constant talking to your companion in the wood and cover to prevent accidents happening, not only to yourself and party, but to persons passing in the line of your shot, or to Cows, Horses, &c. Many disagreeable accidents of this kind frequently occur by inattention.—The Woodcock is easily marked, as he will take but short flights, if he has not been often fired at or much disturbed; in this case I have known them to fly a considerable way, sometimes half a

mile, for though they are loath to quit their haunts, they are a bird of great flight, instance their long passages from one climate to another, when they are obliged to fly many leagues without having an opportunity to rest. They have been known to pitch themselves on the rigging of ships to take breath and rest.



## C H A P. VIII.

*Of Snipe.*

**T**HESE birds are commonly (being birds of. suction, as well as the Woodcock) found in fresh water springs, wet meadows and deep grafs: They are an easy shot, if you give them time to quit their serpentine windings, which their long bill obliges them to take ere they recover themselves sufficiently to fly streight, you should allow them to fly full out, if distance permits, ere you fire, and then you may easily kill them.

SNIPES in proper ground, if not much frightened, will, after taking many turns, pretty high and far distant, most commonly, return and alight in some part of the ground they sprung from: As they are generally in

open ground, they are easily marked.—Whenever you see a bird rise, especially in any kind of wood or cover, you should call out, Mark; this advertises your companions that game is sprung, and may give some one of the company a chance: This refers more particularly to Woodcock shooting.—Spaniels, under good command, will do for Snipe, but Pointers used to them are better, unless they are of the delicate kind, in that case they are soon knocked up with the wet and cold. Large setters, I presume, as you can always keep sight of them, are good for this kind of shooting: There are Pointers, however, that are from habit, good for the several kinds of game.

## C H A P. IX.

*Of intimidating or cowing Dogs;  
with a glaring Instance--bet-  
ter Treatment recommended.*

ONE thing I beg leave to lay down as a general maxim here, is a careful attention to the natural temper and disposition of your Dogs. There are some of these animals of so high bred a kind, that they will bear frequent beating and abuse, and will hunt with greater vigor immediately after a chastisement; others, of a softer kind, are so easily intimidated, and become so very sulky, that they are rendered useless forever.

I HAVE a glaring instance of this kind

now in my possession, and the manner in which I ruined him (for want of knowing his temper) was as follows: Ponto was imported from Great-Britain to America by a friend of mine, who made me a present of him: He is a beautiful animal, of the best species of Pointers, of uncommon sagacity, and amazing travel; hunts high, is very staunch and obedient. I had him but a few months, when I coupled him one day to a young Dog, to avoid being troublesome in the streets, as well as to civilize the young one. Ponto being very eager, made several springs to disentangle himself from his companion, as well as to gain the liberty of ranging about. I turned suddenly about in some heat, and gave him an unlucky blow on the back with the butt of my fuzee; I observed he was much hurt, but thought no more about the matter, until I untied him on the field; he immediate-

ly hung down his tail, and (instead of beating about, of which he was very fond) made the best of his way home.—Upon my returning in the evening, I took no notice of his behaviour, but, by coaxing and making much of him, and foreseeing there was a risk of his being cowed, I did not take him out for a month afterwards, in order to give him time to forget it; the Dog followed me then, and went on as usual with the utmost cheerfulness, and seemed to me to behave better than formerly;—but the first time I spoke rough to the young Dog, Ponto set off home as fast as he could run, and would not come in. He served me the same trick repeatedly afterwards, without any other provocation but my speaking harsh to the other Dog, and I could not contrive any thing to break him of it. At last he once disappointed me in the same manner, when engaged on a very particular

party; I own I was angry, and contrived to get home before him, where I gave him a very severe flogging; but instead of mending the matter, he will not come near me, nor will he even vouchsafe to eat from my hand, let him be ever so hungry; by which means he is now, though the best of Dogs with another person, rendered entirely useless to me, to my no small mortification as you may well suppose.

This instance, with many others that I could ascertain, will, I hope, be a sufficient warning to Gentlemen how to treat their Dogs. I believe if I had struck mine with a whip, rod, or pulled his ears, it would have no bad effect upon him. You should, therefore, never kick your Dog, or use any heavy hard substance to correct him; a gentle pulling of the ears (if not cut) or, which is still better, a small whip carried for that purpose, is much better. Had I bred Ponto,



I might have known him better perhaps.— Great caution is necessary in this article. I have known the strongest and most vigorous forward Dogs, spoiled for a whole day, by a violent kick, which, I suppose, has hurt them so much that they could not recover themselves. — Biting your Dog's ears with your teeth is a barbarous method of correcting, and is generally attended with a corruption and corroding of blood. I have known Dogs to die of an inflammation caused by violent beatings, especially when inflicted on the small of the back. I must, nevertheless, own, that on many occasions, their misdemeanor puts one's humor to the trial, and that a great deal of beating is absolutely necessary and indispensable to reprove them, but we ought to know them well, and treat them accordingly, and that with something sharp and pliable.

WHENEVER your Dog behaves well, you ought constantly to praise and clap him, and by making use of certain kind expressions, encourage him as much as possible; he will be fond of this, and have a good effect upon him, and, as they are generally very sagacious, this will animate and encourage one of a good disposition, to behave better and with greater cheerfulness and caution.—Some very good Dogs are fond of choosing their own ground, and are very apt to give you the slip, and come to a fly point; in this case don't call or whistle for them, (but endeavour to find them out) unless you are obliged to it.

## C H A P. X.

*Shooting Apparatus recommended, method of Loading, and Precautions to be used in returning Home.*

**O**F these, there are great variety, and most commonly are chosen more from fancy than for utility ; some use the steel spring chargers for their shot, I own they are handy and convenient, but as they weigh almost as much as the shot they contain, I would recommend and prefer the pudding shot bag, with a brass head, and a horn or leather powder horn, with a spring top: such as have the spring stopper inside the horn are best ; those with the stopper outside, waste

and spill the powder.—I disapprove of loading out of the top of the horn, it is both uncertain and dangerous, by the powder's clogging between the stopper and head of the horn, and thereby often admits a greater quantity of powder than you intend.—I will here endeavour to explain my method of loading, and hope, that habit will make it both expeditious and safe to such as chuse to practise it :—Being provided then with a powder horn and pudding shot bag, as above described, the former in a pocket on my right side, with the cord belonging to it on the left shoulder ; my shot bag on the left side, slung with its strap on the right shoulder ; my bird net fixed pretty high, to avoid catching in the brush and cover, with a certain number of square bits of soft gray paper run through the middle with a thread, and sewed to a convenient part on the right breast of my coat ; a

turnkey and couple of spare flints in my pocket.—I, first of all, prime. Secondly, fill the head of my horn with powder, and empty it in the top of my shot bag, (which should contain the exact charge I intend, and serve as a measure for powder and shot, and be equal to the full of my powder horn top) put up my horn, empty the powder in my gun, take one of my square papers for wadding, and, ramming it down, I Thirdly, fill my measure with shot, put it in the barrel, take another bit of paper, ram it down, and, returning my measure and rammer, I am ready. All this may, at first, appear complex and tedious, but, by a little practice, will become easy, expeditious and safe: I have invariably loaded in this manner; I found that I was in general as quick as others.—Many of the best and most experienced shots, object to priming first; I cannot see wherein the danger consists, unless it may be supposed to proceed

from the heat of the barrel, or something touching the trigger whilst you are loading. How must it be with the army, who always prime first, and fire very often so quick, that they can scarcely hold their pieces in their hands, with the heat, yet it is extraordinary to see one of them go off whilst loading, without some other cause than the heat of the piece.—Bad powder, leaving a sulphurous sediment in the breech of the barrel, is a more frequent cause of such accidents. I have often seen a battalion from five to seven hundred men, fire sixty rounds on a field day, without one accident of this nature; though I once saw a whole Grenadier Company's pouches on fire, by a spark communicating to a broken cartridge in one of the mens pouches; it was in the instant of firing, and the pouch was open. However, I shan't insist upon the propriety or impropriety of priming first or last, only insist that priming first is the most expedi-



tious ; and Gentlemen seldom fire so quick, when fowling, as to endanger any accident of this kind ; it never happened to myself—every one's own discretion may guide them in this particular as they please.

If you have a Servant, when out shooting, let him carry your shot bag, (those that I have described contain 4lb. some more some less) and you may carry half a dozen steel spring charges in your waistcoat or jacket pockets, which, being double, will contain twelve charges. Many use cartridges containing both powder and shot. I would recommend your carrying a few charges of large shot, No. 3 and 4, as many opportunities frequently offer of making use of them.—I shall conclude this Chapter, by hinting, that the portable pocket bottle, covered with twigs, and the collation of cold meat and bread, or biscuit, are always safe and useful companions, even for their short

excursions, as well as the Sportsman's knife and fork.

I WILL suppose you returning home, loaded with game, be not, however, entirely inattentive to your Dogs, for in the evening birds will run far to feed, and perhaps give you chances when you least expect them.—If you hunt with a brace of Dogs, the couple is very useful in preventing their straggling and losing them in going through the streets, &c. besides, being hungry, they will stray away after carrion and other stuff, which coupling effectually prevents, and saves you much trouble.—It is needless to caution you against carrying your piece home loaded; it is dangerous, and should be always guarded against, by either drawing the charge or firing it off.

## C H A P. XI.

*Of Spaniels in general.*

**O**F these there are many kinds: I have heard a Gentleman once describe thirteen different species of them; from the Setter, the large English Spaniel and Water Spaniels, down to the little Turnspit legged one. The brown coloured Cocking Spaniel, with curly ears, are very good; but I believe the small Short Legged ones, with a sharp nose and pretty small ears that give tongue when they come nigh their game or upon a hot scent, are the best: I have known many of these, well broke, that exceed any kind of Dogs for shooting: they are commonly red and white; I have seen some yellow of the same kind, and various other colours.

A GOOD Spaniel, very obedient, that will hunt close, is very indefatigable, and certainly better than Pointers in woods and thick cover, because they have the advantage of being able to creep under the bushes, and hunting chiefly upon the track or roading of the bird: My greatest objection to them is (unless they are very well broke indeed) their being very troublesome; you are always obliged to hey them, and keep constantly calling, hollowing, or whistling to them, and the more you beat some of them, the more eager they are; yet for a young man able to follow them, they are by far the best for small shooting. It is hard to prevent their spoiling your birds, being in general hard mouthed.

THERE is another kind that I have known to be very excellent, and not so fiery as the former, which has a resemblance to Setters, but not so large, though much larger than

the little Spaniels, with a fan-tail, and pretty large ears: This kind of Dogs ranges well, and will make a sudden stand, or short pause or point, and, as you come up, bounce in upon, and spring the game.

I HAVE also observed, that birds rise more puzzled and confused before Spaniels, than from a point, owing, I suppose, to their not having time to take proper flight, by the sudden and furious approach of the Spaniel. You should use a brace of these Dogs.

## C H A P. XII.

*Of stealing Game Dogs,*

W I T H A

D I A L O G U E.

**F**ORMER Acts of Parliament, and, in particular, a late Act, is very rigorous against persons found guilty of this crime: It is generally committed by Poachers and the lowest class of Ruffians, and it is great pity but the law had made it more heinous: If a man steals my horse, which may not be worth five pounds, the law condemns him to the gallows. A good Pointer is seldom valued at less than ten guineas, very often twice that sum, and yet the punishment for stealing one, does not extend to life or limb. To a person fond of these animals, it is a great grief and disappointment to lose one



of them; and it is not the value of him alone, but the difficulty of replacing such a one as he has lost, to his liking: Besides, if the Dog stolen has been brought up in his family from a Pup, the feeding, training and breaking him, is an expensive and troublesome process, and no bounds can be set to his value, and the satisfaction he yields to his owner. Not only his Master, but, perhaps, his whole family, is become exceeding fond of poor *Sancho*, and much attached to the animal, for his great sagacity and affection to them. I have known many instances of this kind (where the parties concerned had no ridiculous fondness for animals) to have caused great uneasiness to a whole family. That Gentlemen could be guilty of so mean and ungenerous an action, would seem incredible, yet, I am sorry to say, that many assuming the appellation, have, to their very great shame, been detected of this crime.

*In Order to enforce my Ideas in the foregoing ESSAY, I will suppose the following DIALOGUE, between Squire JOLLYMAN, Mr. AIMWELL, and their SERVANTS.*

Squire JOLLYMAN's House.

*Aimwell.* Good morning, Sir; I hope that I am punctual, and did not keep you waiting.

*Jollyman.* On the contrary, Sir, I have but this moment put on my cloaths—'tis but five o'clock, though let us lose no time; come, Sir, breakfast is ready—do you drink coffee, chocolate, or tea?

*Aim.* Neither, Sir;—I'll have bread and milk—which way do we travel to-day?

*Jol.* I will be entirely guided by you, Sir—though suppose we spend the morning on the Moor, for Grouse, and the afternoon, in our return, on the Stubble, for Partridge.

*Aim.* An excellent plan, Sir:—We shall have a charming day;—what Dogs do you take out?

*Jol.* There is old *Lasher*, and his grandson *Primo*,—you know the old *Gentleman*;—but, pray Sir, what Curs are those you have coupled?

*Aim.* Pardon me, Sir, they are an excellent brace of staunch Pointers, of wonderful travel, *Ponto* and *Dash*; the latter I had a present from his Grace the D—— of B——, and, I am informed, that he has a dash of the Fox-hound.

*Jol.* I was only in jest, Sir;—the Dogs look very beautiful.

*Aim.* And you will find them, Sir, as good as they look.

*Jol.* Do we ride, or walk to the Moor?

*Aim.* Just as you please, for my own part, I would prefer walking.

*Jol.* You are much lighter and a better walker than I am, Sir ;—the Moor is six full miles off, and by riding there we will be fresh to beat the ground.

*Aim.* Very justly observed ; we will ride then.

*Jol.* Here, boys, take our Horses—we are now in the very heart of the ground.

*Aim.* How shall we hunt the Dogs, Sir ?

*Jol.* A brace at once is enough—we will begin with mine, if you please.

*Aim.* Done, Sir, Tom couple up mine ;  
—your Dogs beat very high, Sir.

*Jol.* I think that's an advantage, Sir,  
—I can't bear your snubbing Dogs.

*Aim.* I join with you in that, as well as  
in most other things.

*Jol.* Lasher stands, and Primo backs  
him ; the old Dog pins them.

*Aim.* A bird a-piece—I like this—'tis a  
bad omen to miss the first shot ;—they are  
fine birds—how very plump !

*Jol.* What think you of my Dogs ?

*Aim.* Charming indeed—elegant—I wish  
mine may please you as well, though I have  
no doubt of it.

*Jol.* We must beat the ground closer—  
there are more birds here ;—how many got  
up, Billy ?

*William.* Five brace, Sir, with those you shot.

*Jol.* That's but ten birds, and, as it's a fresh pack they are not all up.

*Wil.* The young Dog Primo, draws Sir, —there he stops—and old Lasher is coming to back him.

*Jol.* Down, Lasher;—take heed there, Primo.

*Aim.* I have killed my bird;—did you miss, Sir?

*Jol.* 'Egad, I have so, though, I believe, he has carried away some shot—I saw him stagger—I gave him too much time, and my shot scattered.

*Aim.* We can't always hit,—if we did, God help the poor Grouse!

*Jol.* If we all fired like you, Sir, there would be none left to breed:—I



am rather grown too fat, and sometimes I get pretty warm in coming up to my shot.—The young Dog has led well, I think.

*Aim.* Admirable !—and he made no offer to chase when they rose.

*Wil.* He knows a trick worth two of that, Sir ; he knows what I carry in my pocket.

*Jol.* Yes—he has tasted it pretty often ;—he was hard to break—being cross-bred,—but he promises fair now to make amends.

*Aim.* Lasher is upon game, Sir.

*Jol.* Hold up, my Dogs ;—Lasher, get on ;—down, Primo ;—there they are, Sir,—a fresh pack ;—twig, Lasher ; he wants to make a set of it ; see how he squats and looks round him ;—he has them on all

sides—come, Sir, the first chance is yours ; boys, stand close with the guns.

*Aim.* I have shot two ; what a pity !

*Jol.* And I my bird—that's a Leash.

*Aim.* I never shot two Grouse at a shot before, nor did I see another do it ;—the second bird crossed just as I pulled my trigger.

*Jol.* 'Tis very uncommon, and so much the better ;—it's murder.

*Wil.* I have marked a single bird, Gentlemen.

*Aim.* Squire Jollyman, up to him.

*Wil.* Primo sprung him, Sir.

*Jol.* Sirrah, 'tis false—it can't be—there sirrah, he stands to him:—Down, Primo.

*Wil.* I might have been mistaken, Sir ; I thought I saw him run in upon him.

*Jol.* There he lays ; go and pick him up ; a plaguy long shot indeed !

*Aim.* Wonderfully so !—I think it's above eighty yards—come let us measure—exactly seventy-five paces—a decent distance, and the bird stone dead.

*Jol.* Did you mark the pack ?

*Tom.* Yes, Sir, I have seen them alight, but a great way off, 'tis almost half a mile.

*Aim.* They have taken a long flight ; they are a little frightened.

*Jol.* I am a little warm, Sir, and, as it's just twelve, suppose we rest a little here, and refresh.

*Aim.* With all my heart, Sir, I am both dry, and have a keen appetite, though not in the least fatigued.

*Jol.* Come boys, get the cold meat,  
H

brandy, and water, and give the dogs some water.

*Aim.* 'Tis now close upon *one*---I'll let loose my Dogs and tie up your's, if you please.

*Jol.* Do so---the pack will be pretty well settled by this time.

*Aim.* Both the dogs stand, Sir, in different directions, so that we are sure of a shot, a piece.

*Jol.* We have both done execution;---I like your dogs much---Dash is a great beauty, I must have a pup from him and my Clara.

*Aim.* You do me honor, Sir;---by all means, and I bespeak a bitch-pup.

*Jol.* It is time to quit this ground, and take horses to the stubble.

*Tom.* I rejoice to hear it, for between

these plaguy dogs' pulling, and the weight of the grouse, I am in a fine lather.--- Back, Lasher-- he pulls like a horse.

*Aim.* Let the poor things loose, and let them have a run---we may have a *royal point* from all the dogs.

*Wil.* Ponto leads roading---he is very cautious ;---the birds are on foot.

*Jol.* You judge well, for now thy all four stand ;---old Lasher must lead ;---Ponto is very cautious ;---see Primo's beautiful attitude, and Dash's is admirable !

*Aim.* They are partridge to be sure---- I see them gather, Sir ;---we may kill many ;---what the deuce, four brace ! that's too many ;---I think it is time to return home, and be time enough for tea.

*Jol.* Agreed, but none of your tea for me ; after my fatigue I chuse a cup of good

beer:---Let us see Tom, how we stand---  
 fix brace of grouse and four of partridge---  
 pretty well for the short time we have hunted;  
 and, I believe, neither we or the dogs are in the least fatigued.

*Tom.* I can't join with you there, Sir,---  
 I am very much tired.

*Aim.* Come, Sir, we have had a pleasant  
 day's diversion,---excellent dogs, plenty of  
 game, and fine weather.

*P. S.* Please to take notice, That the  
 quails in North-America are much larger,  
 than those in England, and that shooting  
 them, in most cases, is partridge shooting  
 in miniature, (which is the reason they are  
 mentioned in the same chapter) with this  
 difference; that, as the under cover is, in  
 general, very bad, and almost inaccessible,  
 the very best of dogs should be had: A



rough, hardy, vigorous Russian dog, I think, would be the best, though I have seen many smooth dogs excellent for them by being much used to the cover.

*F I N I S.*



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